[18th August 1955

the pretext of investigation and is detained in the lock-up for any number of days and no one is allowed inside the Police station to see the person or talk to him. This is being carried on almost every day. Will the Government see to it that such practices do not recur hereafter and allow persons to visit these lock-ups so that it may act as a check on the Police officers? ''

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Sir, the question which the Hon. Member has put does not arise out of the main question. This is a general complaint and such generalizations certainly do not help.''

Hospital at Tirukkoyilur

9–30 a.m. * 2106 *Q*.—Sri A. MUTHUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why no lady doctor has been posted to the hospital at Tirukkoyilur for the past two years?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—'' Due to the dearth of qualified Women Medical Officers the post could not be filled up so far and no candidate applied for the post when vacancies were advertised in the papers.''

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—'' May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the post has been filled up? ''

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—'' That is very good news.''

Cases of capital sentence in the State

* 2107 *Q*.—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many cases of capital sentences have been carried out in 1953–54 and 1954–55;

(*b*) how many such cases have been commuted by this Government in these years; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to suspend the execution of capital sentences generally?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' (*a*) 41 and 44.

'' (*b*) 35 and 14. (These numbers do not include 18 cases commuted by the President of India.)

'' (*c*) No, Sir.''

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' Have the Government considered the proposal that has been in the air for a long time that except in extreme cases capital sentences should not be executed even when courts have inflicted them. That must be the rule and it should ordinarily come under the clemency powers of the State only? ''

18th August 1955]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Now almost every case of capital sentence comes before the Government through a mercy petition. The facts of each case are taken into consideration and a decision is taken thereon."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The point is that as a rule capital sentence should not be inflicted or carried out but only life sentence and only in exceptional cases like an attempted murder or murder, capital sentence should be inflicted and carried out? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is only the point of view of how it has got to be looked into, by the hon. Member. As a matter of fact, now the rule is that murder is to be punished with death sentence except under certain circumstances. Therefore, even when a court has awarded a death sentence, it comes up before the Government. They further look into the matter and if there is any extenuating circumstance, the capital sentence is modified and transportation for life is given."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will not the Government consider that the right to life is the fundamental right of a man? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is why a capital punishment is given to those who take away life."

Treatment of lepers at the clinic at Tirukkoyilur

* 2108 *Q.*—SRI A. MUTHUSWAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many lepers were given leprosy injections in the Thakkar Baba Leprosy Clinic at Tirukkoyilur in the year 1954;

(*b*) how many of them are Harijans; and

(*c*) the present strength of the staff in this clinic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) 51 patients; Sir.

" (*b*) No register is being maintained caste-war in the clinic and hence it is not possible to give separate figures regarding the number of Harijans attending the clinic.

" (*c*) Six."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" As lepers as a class are much worse than Harijans, may I suggest that there need not be any classification at least in the leper clinics? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is what I said."

SRI A. MUTHUSWAMY :—" இந்த தக்கர் பாபா குஷ்ட நிவாரண ஆஸ்பத்திரியானது அரங்கண்ட நல்லூர் அதாவது தென்பெண்ணை நதியின் கரை ஓரத்தில் இருப்பதால், அது சுகாதார முறைப்படி பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு இடைஞ்சல் தருகிறது. அப்படி இடைஞ்சல் இருப்பதாக ஏதாவது மகஜர் வந்திருக்கிறதா ? அப்படி மகஜர் வந்திருந்தால், அதை 'பாரெஸ்ட் ஏரியா' வுக்கு மாற்றுவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முயற்சிக்குமா என்பதை கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் தெரிவிப்பாரா ? "